

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN NEA-12

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----- 116468

R 282045Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
DECEMBER 28, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT ON THE COMMUNIQUE THAT WAS
ISSUED IN GENEVA TODAY? AND SECONDLY, COULD YOU, FOR OUR
BENEFIT, CLARIFY WHAT IS MEANT BY AGREEMENT ON THE PRIN-
CIPLES OF DISENGAGEMENT?

A. I DON'T AT THIS STAGE WANT TO GO INTO COMMENTS ON WHAT
THEY ARE DOING THERE. I THINK IT WOULD BE ONLY RIGHT FOR
ME TO BE MORE FULLY INFORMED ABOUT EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE
DOING BEFORE I SPECULATE OR TRY TO COMMENT ON WHAT THEY ARE
DOING. NOW, WE WILL BE KEPT INFORMED, AS ONE OF THE
SPONSORING GOVERNMENTS. BUT I DON'T THINK I SHOULD TRY TO
MAKE THE KIND OF ASSESSMENT OR COMMENT THAT YOU HAVE ASKED
WITHOUT MUCH MORE INFORMATION AS TO EXACTLY WHAT THE WORK-
ING GROUP IS DOING. I WILL TRY TO COME TO THIS LATER WITH
YOU.

Q. UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES IS THE SECRETARY PLANNING TO
RETURN TO GENEVA?

A. HE HAS NEVER SPECIFIED THE CIRCUMSTANCES PRECISELY.
HE HAS MERELY LEFT OPEN THE FACT THAT HE IS LIKELY TO GO
BACK TO GENEVA, AND I THINK THE NATURE OF PROGRESS IN
GENEVA IS LIKELY TO HAVE A BEARING ON IT. BUT HE HAS
NEVER SPECIFIED WHEN, NOR PRECISELY UNDER WHAT CIRCUM-
STANCES.

Q. WOULD AN AGREEMENT ON THE SEPARATION OF FORCES ON THE
SINAI FRONT REQUIRE RATIFICATION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER?

A. I DON'T THINK THERE IS A SPECIFIC LEGAL OR DIPLOMATIC
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REQUIREMENT INVOLVED. IT'S A MATTER OF HOW MUCH DIGNITY
AND IMPORTANCE YOU WANT TO GIVE TO WHAT'S GOING9,, AND I
THINK YOU COULD HAVE EITHER --

AND I WOULD LIKE TO GO ON BACKGROUND HERE -- I THINK YOU
COULD PICTURE EITHER OF TWO CONTINGENCIES AS LEADING TO
THE SECRETARY'S BEING CALLED BACK TO GENEVA.

ONE, IS IF THEY HAVE MOVED TO A POINT WHERE THEY HAVE VERY SERIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH THEY WISH TO LEND AS MUCH WEIGHT AND SERIOUSNESS TO AS POSSIBLE. AND THE OTHER, IS AN ERUPTION OF REAL PROBLEMS IN WHICH IT WOULD BE THOUGHT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESENCE WOULD BE NEEDED TO TRY TO GET THINGS BACK ON THE TRACK AGAIN.

Q. IF NO PROGRESS IS MADE IS THERE ANY KIND OF ARTIFICIAL TIME PERIOD BEEN SET OF A MONTH, TWO MONTHS, THREE MONTHS, SIX MONTHS -- UNDER WHICH THE PRESENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT BE NECESSARY?

A. THERE IS NO SPECIFIED TIME PRESENCE.

Q. I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT IF THERE WAS A BREAKDOWN IN THE TALKS, THAT THE SECRETARY WAS MORE LIKELY TO GO TO THE CAPITAL CONCERNED, RATHER THAN TO GENEVA. AM I WRONG?

A. NO. YOU ARE RIGHT, IN THE PRACTICAL SENSE, THAT THE FIRST STEP TO GENEVA, IS THROUGH THE CAPITALS. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SANAA.

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